LOL-HECO-IR-33

Ref: "It was concluded that the flashovers occurred due to a build up of contaminants on the insulators due to extremely dry condition with little rain. This condition is not unique to the islands" (Exhibit 5, page 45).

Question(s):

a. Is the dry weather conducive to Live Working?

b. Does buildup of contaminants on insulators affect the length of time before the next maintenance work on the line?

HECO Response:

a. Yes. However, dry weather is only one factor when considering the practicality of using live working techniques. Other factors include economic considerations, system conditions, physical conditions of the structures and hardware, "LW-friendly" construction, access to the worksite (i.e., ease of access, duration of access relative to workday, availability of sufficient staging area, vegetation, insects), and other weather conditions such as fog, high humidity and high temperatures, unpredictable winds and the occurrence of lightning. (See HECO T-5, pages 8 through 22.)

b. Yes, it can. Contaminant build-up can affect corrosion rates and in areas prone to flashover, can impact the insulator washing schedule. The presence of contamination can also lead to uncertain outcomes of insulator integrity tests.